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Organizational session for 1992

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 27 January 1992, at 11 a.m.

Temporary President: Mr. DJOUDI (Algeria)

President: Mr. SILOVIC (Yugoslavia)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.25 a.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared the organizational session of the Economic and Social Council for 1992 open.

Speaking as the outgoing President, he said that 1991 had been a year of rapid, far-reaching change, ushering in a new world order that was both promising and anxiety-provoking. There had been progress in the area of disarmament, peaceful-settlement processes had been set in motion in respect of several regional conflicts, there were signs of movement towards the dismantling of apartheid, and there was a will on all sides to strengthen the role of the United Nations. At the same time, the Gulf conflict had shown once again that security could be neither divisible nor partial.

The aspiration of peoples all around the world to establish democracy and promote human rights called for observance of the principles of democracy, equality and justice in international relations.

Over the past year the Economic and Social Council, which must retain its rightful key role in that connection, had adopted methods of work that would enable it to monitor the international situation more effectively. The major innovation had been the special high-level meeting on the impact of recent developments in East-West relations on the growth of the world economy and on international economic cooperation. The themes chosen for 1992 - the international trade system, and eradication of poverty in the developing countries - were also issues of the greatest importance, whose consideration was one of the Council's essential tasks. Furthermore, the Council had engaged to a greater extent in informal exchanges of views with the aim of developing a climate more conducive to building areas of understanding, which had also enabled it to function more effectively and ensure that its work complemented that of the General Assembly to a greater degree.

(The Temporary President)

The transition of the Central and Eastern European countries to a market economy and the need to revitalize growth and development in the developing countries, particularly by finding a lasting solution to the problem of the developing countries' external indebtedness and by removing barriers to trade with the developing countries, lent great importance to the Secretary-General's proposal concerning the convening of an international conference on development financing.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT informed the members of the Council that the Group of Eastern European States had endorsed the candidacy of Mr. Silovic (Yugoslavia) for the office of President of the Council for 1992.

Mr. Silovic (Yugoslavia) was elected President by acclamation.

Mr. Silovic (Yugoslavia) took the Chair.

The PRESIDENT recalled the successful outcome of the resumed forty-fifth session of the General Assembly devoted to the enhancement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations.

Unlike in previous years, in 1992 the Economic and Social Council would have only one session, comprising a high-level segment, a coordination segment, an operational activities segment and a committee segment, as well as a one-day policy dialogue with heads of multilateral financial and trade institutions. That approach would enable the Council to enhance its effectiveness in settling the major issues of international economic relations. There had already been important breakthroughs in the political and security fields, so it was essential that the economic and social functions of the United Nations should be made more effective. Stable international relations and sustainable peace and security were not possible without a greater balance in the economic and social welfare of mankind, especially in the developing world, which was threatened by poverty, stagnation of growth, environmental degradation, disease and uncontrolled population growth. Developments in East-West relations had been discussed both in the high-level exchange of views in the context of the Economic and Social Council and at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, and a

(The President)

consensus was emerging that the very necessary and urgent efforts that were being made to assist the former centrally planned economies should not be at the expense of developing countries and should be accompanied by even greater efforts to revitalize the growth and development of the developing countries. It was the role of the United Nations, and particularly of the Economic and Social Council, to see to it that that consensus was translated into action.

The organizational session would provide an opportunity to address the many procedural issues that remained to be settled despite the detailed guidelines set out in General Assembly resolution 45/264.

Under rule 18 of the rules of procedure, the Council was required to elect four Vice-Presidents. He had been informed that as a result of consultations among the regional groups the following candidates were being nominated: Mr. Somavia (Chile), Mr. Traxler (Italy), and Mr. Amaziane (Morocco). The name of the candidate to be nominated by the Group of Asian States would be communicated at a later date.

Mr. Somavia (Chile), Mr. Traxler (Italy) and Mr. Amaziane (Morocco) were elected Vice-Presidents of the Council for 1992 by acclamation.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT said that, on the basis of Council resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114 and General Assembly resolution 45/264, the Council would have before it, for consideration at its organizational session, the provisional agenda for the organizational session (E/1992/2 and Add.1) and a note by the Secretary-General containing the proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 1992 and 1993 (E/1992/1 and Add.1). The Council's attention was also drawn to the matters requiring action at its organizational session, listed under item 2 of the provisional agenda.

In conformity with the provisions of paragraph 2 (1) of Council resolution 1988/77, he would hold consultations on the proposed basic programme of work and other organizational matters, which should enable the Council to shorten its organizational session.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.